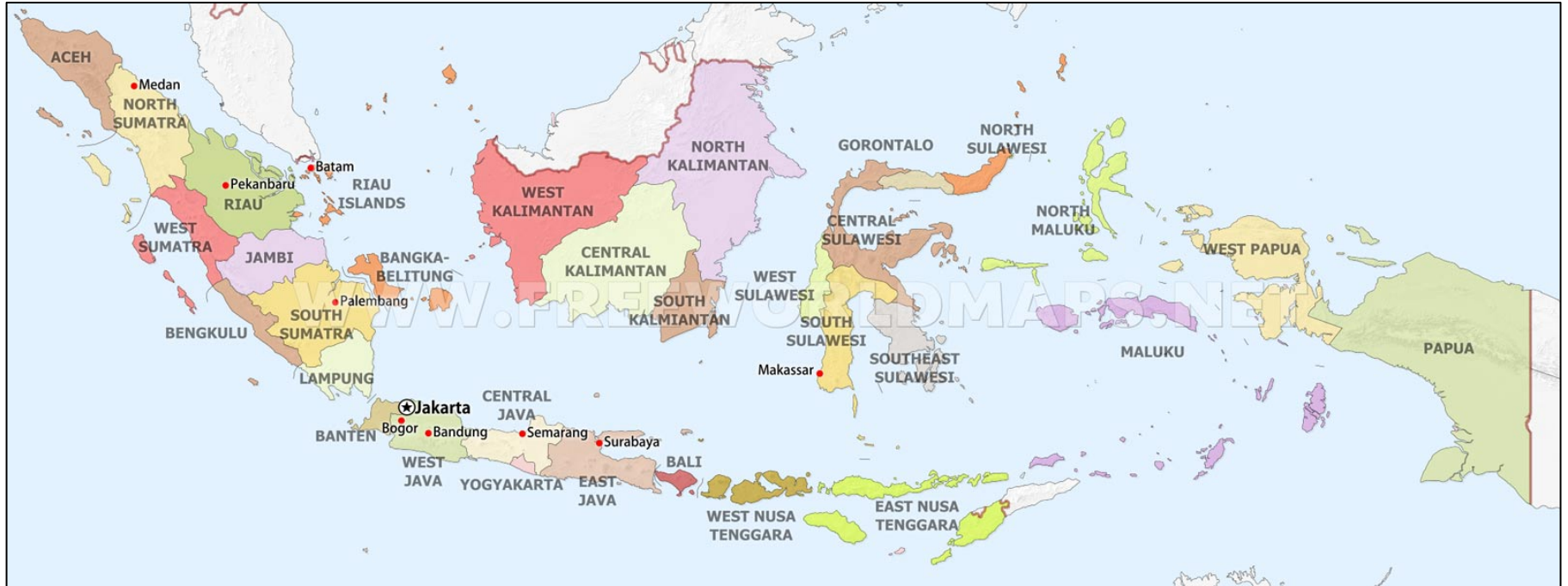




The Rise of Political Homophobia in Indonesia

A potent campaign tool in the 2019 Elections?



The Moral Panic

Nasir Djamil – PKS, DPR member

“The LGBT Community is a serious threat to the nation. It should not be allowed to grow or be given room to conduct its activities.”

Reni Marlinawati – PPP, DPR member

“This practice, in addition to violating religious norms, is also contrary to positive law. We unequivocally reject and oppose this practice.”



Republika frontpage, 16 Jan 2016, 'LGBT a Serious Threat'. Source: Human Rights Watch

Mahfudz Siddiq – PKS, DPR member

“LGBT issues can damage national security, identity, culture and the faith of Indonesians.”

Berliana Kartakusumah – Hanura Sec-Gen

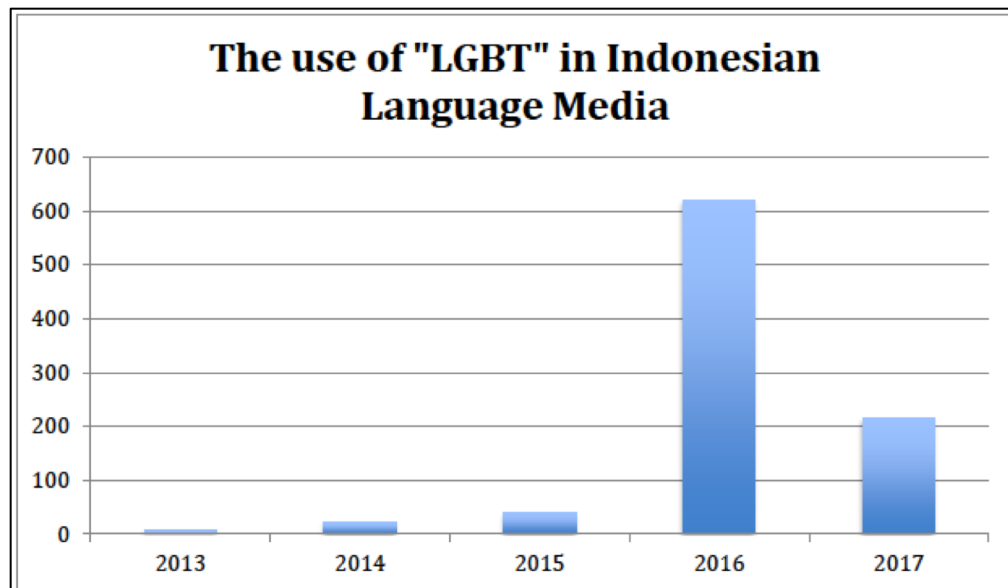
“LGBT must be banned just like we banned communism and drug trafficking.”

Zulkifli Hasan – PAN, People's Consultative Assembly Chair

“...should be banned because it does not fit within the culture of Indonesia.”

The moral panic's consequences

- Police join in the persecution with unlawful raids
- Regional by-laws introduced
- Vigilantes emboldened
- Digital spaces policed



Source: Hendri Yulius, 'Intimate Assemblages', 2018.



Some contributing factors

- Rising visibility of LGBT people and activists
- Global attention on SOGIE rights
- Digital communication technologies facilitates events spiraling

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Stop Homophobia in Indonesia from now on

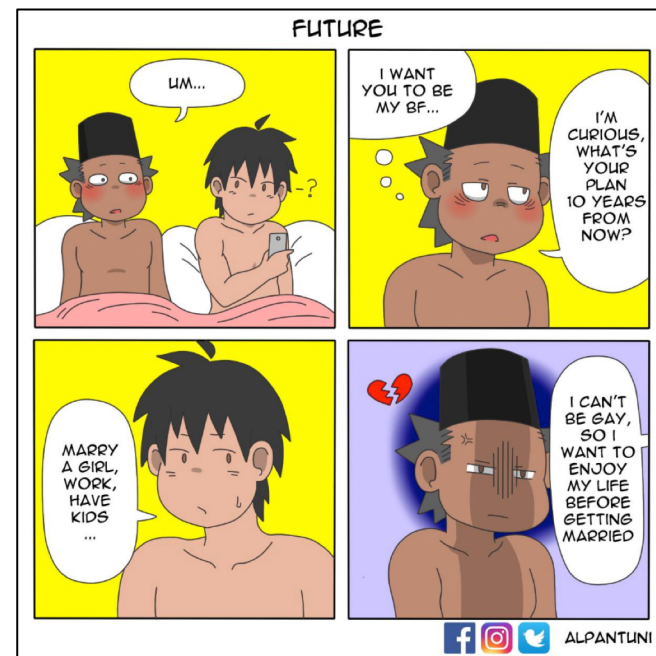
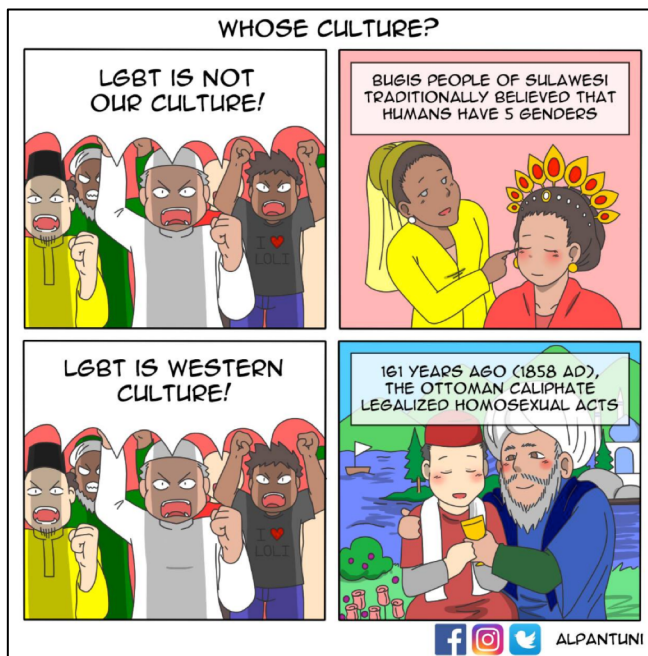
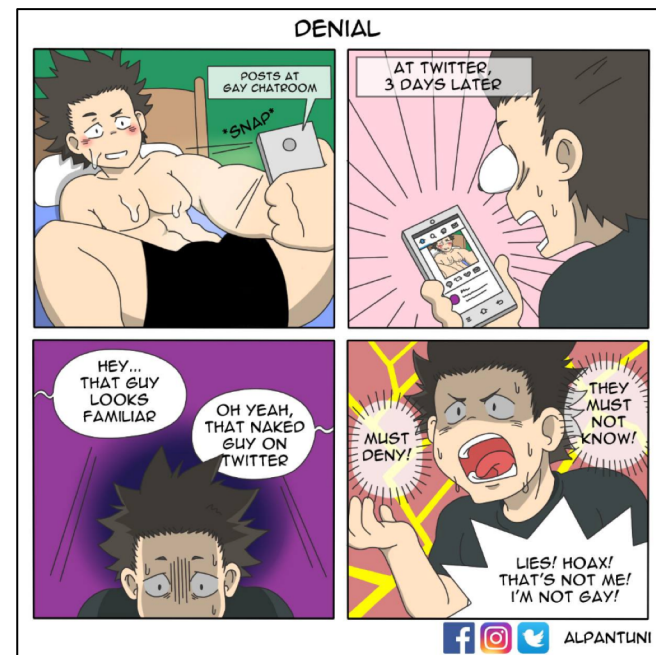
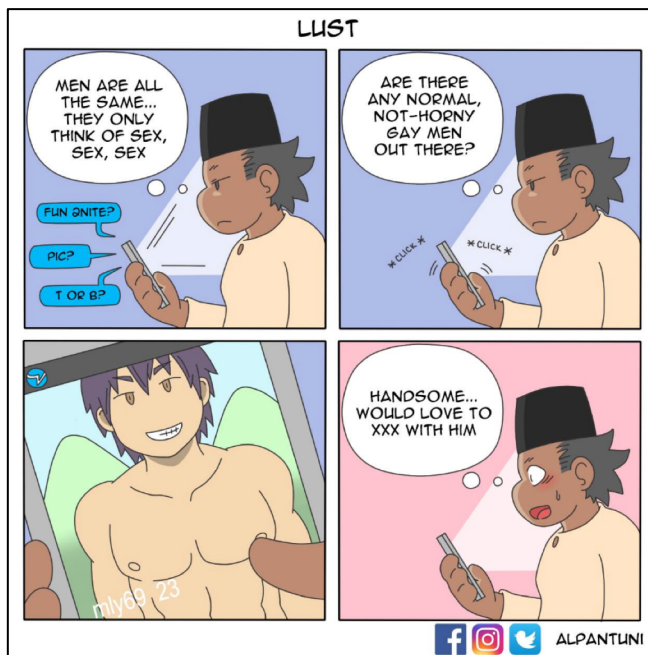
Stop Homophobia in Indonesia from now on

Kompas.com - 05/17/2015, 13:46 WIB

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LGBT activists held a commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia at the Hotel Indonesia Roundabout, Jakarta (05/17/2015). (Yunanto Wiji Utomo)





A nexus point for powerful narratives

- Mainstreaming of Islamic conservatism
- Anti-foreign nationalism on the rise
- Reformasi narrative waning

Some of the main players



An effective campaign tool in the 2019 elections?

- No parties publicly support LGBT rights
- Incumbent silenced 'pro-LGBT' accusations
- Campaign focused on economic issues
- LGBT groups stayed quiet during campaign

Black campaign against PSI

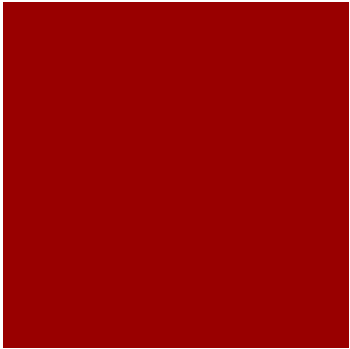


Source: Coconuts, 'Indonesian Solidarity Party denies making banners saying 'respect LGBT rights'', 30 Jan. 2019.

Silencing slander



Source: Tribun Timor, 'Viral Video Ibu ibu Sosialisasi 'Jokowi Menang Kawin Sejenis Sah'', 24 Feb. 2019.



Joko Widodo ✓
@jokowi



Campaign agenda: Economics & development, not human rights



Source: Presidenri.go.id, 20 Oct. 2018

LGBT activists stay quiet
during the campaign





The Rise of Political Homophobia in Indonesia

A potent campaigning tool in the 2019 Elections?